



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**
FOR THE YEAR 1941



W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1941

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

August, 1942.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1941 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars this Report has been restricted to essential and urgent matters, and is to be regarded as an Interim Report only.

I consider the health of the district has been very satisfactory. You will note from the figures given that the birth rate in the district has fallen from 19.8 to 17.4, but the death rate has also fallen from 13.64 to 11.55. I am not able to give a comparative figure of the birth and death rates for England and Wales this year.

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and especially to Mr. V. E. Baughan, the Chief Inspector, who has embodied in this Report a large amount of detail of the work carried out under the heading of "Sanitary Inspection of the Area."

The care and attention given to the question of a really pure milk supply has been very thorough.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

AREA.

Total area of District 10,237·363 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1941 is 47,680. X

TOTAL BIRTHS.

| <i>Sex</i> | | <i>Live Legitimate</i> | <i>Live Illegitimate</i> | <i>Stillborn Legitimate</i> | <i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Males | ... | 373 | 24 | 18 | 2 | 417 |
| Females | ... | 372 | 23 | 17 | 1 | 413 |
| | | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | 745 | 47 | 35 | 3 | 830 |
| | | — | — | — | — | — |

BIRTH RATE.

| | | 1940 | | 1941 | | Basis. |
|--------------|--------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|---|
| | | No. | Birth Rate. | No. | Birth Rate. | |
| LIVE BIRTHS | Legitimate | 836 | 18·305 | 745 | 15·622 | Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population |
| | Illegitimate | 43 | 0·942 | 47 | 0·985 | |
| | Total | 879 | 19·247 | 792 | 16·607 | |
| STILL BIRTHS | Legitimate | 27 | 29·735 | 35 | 42·168 | Per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births. |
| | Illegitimate | 2 | 2·203 | 3 | 3·614 | |
| | Total | 29 | 31·938 | 38 | 45·772 | |
| TOTAL BIRTHS | Legitimate | 863 | 18·896 | 780 | 16·356 | Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population |
| | Illegitimate | 45 | 0·985 | 50 | 1·051 | |
| | Total | 908 | 19·881 | 830 | 17·407 | |

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

| | | Total Deaths (All Causes). | | Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population. | |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------|------|---|-------|
| | | 1941 | 1940 | 1941 | 1940 |
| Male | ... | 280 | 244 | 11·556 | 13·64 |
| Female | ... | 271 | 266 | | |
| TOTAL | ... | 551 | 510 | | |

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year :—

| <i>Disease.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| | 1941. | 1940. |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 2 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | 3 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 41 | 32 |
| Measles (all ages) | 1 | — |
| Whooping Cough (all ages) | 7 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis—Pulmonary | 23 | 29 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 5 | 3 |
| Heart Disease | 128 | 98 |
| Cancer | 69 | 62 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage | 36 | 41 |
| Influenza | 6 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 32 | 27 |
| Kidney Disease | 11 | 15 |
| Appendicitis | 5 | 2 |
| Puerperal causes | Nil | 1 |
| Other maternal causes | 1 | — |

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

| | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> | <i>Death Rate per 1,000.</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| In Total Live Births ... | 36 | 28 | 64 | 82·07 |
| In Legitimate Live Births | 35 | 27 | 62 | 83·22 |
| In Illegitimate Live Births | 1 | 1 | 2 | 42·55 |

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 61 during 1941 to 64 during the year under review. The rate has increased from 69·32 to 82·07.

NOTE.—The Registrar-General has provided an adjusted figure of births, for the purpose of this calculation, which allows for temporary movements of population.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

| <i>Disease.</i> | 1940. | 1941. |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | 112 | 64 |
| Diphtheria | 43 | 44 |
| Enteric Fever | 4 | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 20 | 29 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 23 | 29 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | 7 | 9 |
| Pneumonia | 48 | 65 |
| Tuberculosis—Pulmonary | 31 | 48 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 2 | 11 |
| Poliomyelitis | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 18 | 264 |
| Measles | 48 | 1,146 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The total number of immunisations completed in the year is 3,133, divided into two age groups, as follows :—

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Under 5 years.</i> | <i>5 years but under 15.</i> |
| 902 | 2,231 |

Last year the Council adopted a scheme whereby local medical practitioners could immunise all residents of the area who applied for protection against this dread disease. Children were given two injections of Precipitated Toxin at intervals of four weeks, the fee payable to the doctors being 2s. 6d. per injection. The scheme worked very well and made a good beginning to give immunity to the children. Adults were treated by the three dose method. At the end of the year Clinics were being arranged to augment the above service, and one looks forward to increased numbers. However, in spite of considerable propaganda parents do not bring along their children in as large a number as I would wish.

As mentioned earlier in the Report, there were 44 cases of Diphtheria notified, the deaths being 3, which is a low mortality figure.

Immunisations completed.

| | |
|-------|--------|
| 1940. | 1941. |
| 121 | 3,133. |

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following modified form of report is a summary of the work carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1941, when a total of 4,736 visits were made in connection with the undermentioned matters :

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Housing Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 240 |
| Public Health Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,005 |
| Prevention of Infectious Disease | ... | | | | 634 |
| Verminous conditions including Scabies | | | | | 474 |
| Factories Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 144 |
| Food Supply including Milk Production | | | | | 484 |
| Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 361 |
| Petroleum Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Council Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 771 |
| Gipsy encampments | ... | ... | ... | ... | 133 |
| Air Raid Shelters | ... | ... | ... | ... | 234 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 200 |

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls, slaughterhouses and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold have been frequently visited and the various foodstuffs examined. Considerable activity has arisen from such visits.

During the year 88 pigs were slaughtered under licence of the Ministry of Food ; these were inspected and little disease was found.

There is close co-operation between the Department and the local and divisional offices of the Ministry of Food.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings :—

- (a) That of the Council which supplies the Wards of Uxbridge and Hillingdon West ; and
- (b) That of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, which supplies the remainder of the area.

During the year 11 samples were taken from the mains of the Council's undertaking, and 11 from those of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All proved to be satisfactory.

Proceedings were instituted against the owner of two cottages which derived a water supply from a shallow polluted well. The Court made an order for the well to be closed and the pumps disconnected. Subsequently statutory notices were served requiring a supply of wholesome water to be provided. The owner fixed a standpipe attached to the mains.

MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the District are inspected several times during the course of each year. The premises generally are of satisfactory character.

There are 16 cowkeepers in the area, 5 of whom are licenced as " Accredited " producers by the Middlesex County Council. There are 26 purveyors, of whom 15 are outside the district.

Ten principal and 5 supplementary licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Two samples of " Accredited Milk," twenty-five of ordinary and nine of pasteurised milk were sent for bacteriological examination which showed that most of the samples were of a reasonable degree of purity.

The “ accredited ” samples were found to be satisfactory. In two cases of “ ordinary ” milk guinea-pig inoculation tests showed the presence of tubercle bacilli. The County Councils concerned were informed and advice was later received that two cows had been slaughtered under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

One retailer-producer gave cause for investigation of his bottling methods ; it was found that careless boy operatives were inadequately washing bottles in a “ detergent ” solution. Steam sterilising plant was available but not used. A bacteriological examination of a “ clean ” bottle revealed an equivalent of 145,000,000 organisms. The retailer-producer was convinced and the sterilising plant was again put into operation.



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